

Rye, New York, where she would embark on an admirable and dedicated career devoted to public service. Following her husband's sudden death in 1916, Ms. O'Day became actively involved in the women's suffrage movement as well as a number of other social welfare groups, including the New York affiliate of the National Consumer's League and the Women's Trade Union League, dedicated to improving wages and workplace conditions for both women and children.

In furtherance of her social and community causes, Ms. O'Day also served on the Rye school board and played an integral role in the establishment of the women's division of the Democratic State Committee. In 1923, she was elected by State party leaders to head the women's division as well as serve as chairman of the Democratic State Committee. Then First Lady of the United States, Eleanor Roosevelt, described Ms. O'Day's election to one of the State party leadership positions as "breaking down a major barrier against women in the Democratic Party."

That same year, Governor Al Smith appointed Ms. O'Day to serve on the State Board of Social Welfare, a position that she held for over a decade. In 1924, Ms. O'Day was elected as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention and was elected as chairman of the New York State delegation, marking the first time that a woman had received such an honor from either major political party.

Ms. O'Day proceeded to serve as a delegate for the party's next three national conventions. In 1934, at the age of 65, Ms. O'Day was elected to Congress as a Representative at Large in the 74th Congress. As noted by the author, Paul DeForest Hicks, in his profile of Ms. O'Day that appeared in the New York Historical Association Magazine, Ms. O'Day's 1934 campaign materials "evidenced a commitment for higher standards for wage earners, adequate relief to taxpayers, a sound and enlightened fiscal policy, friendly foreign relations, and advanced opportunities for women in government."

In addition, as recently noted by Rye City Councilman Mack Cunningham, Ms. O'Day's tenure in Congress was marked by a strong interest in social welfare measures. It is noteworthy that she was only the second congresswoman to chair a major committee, the Committee on Election of President, Vice President and Representatives.

On a final note, I would like to mention that, as a New York Representative at Large, Ms. O'Day played a vital role in facilitating the construction of the Rye Post Office that is now the subject of this legislation. In fact, she presided over the post office's ribbon-cutting ceremony on September 5, 1936, and now we stand here some years later seeking to name this post office after Ms. O'Day.

Mr. Speaker, let us honor this dedicated public servant with the passage

of H.R. 1397, and let us follow the leadership of the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) by designating the Rye Post Office in honor of Caroline O'Day. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1397.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1397.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 299) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the Nation during Public Service Recognition Week, May 4 through 10, 2009, and throughout the year.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 299

Whereas Public Service Recognition Week provides an opportunity to recognize and promote the important contributions of public servants and to honor the diverse men and women who meet the needs of the Nation through work at all levels of government;

Whereas millions of individuals work in government service in every city, county, and State across America and in hundreds of cities abroad;

Whereas public service is a noble calling, involving a variety of challenging and rewarding professions;

Whereas Federal, State, and local governments are responsive, innovative, and effective because of the outstanding work of public servants;

Whereas the United States is a great and prosperous Nation, and public service employees contribute significantly to that greatness and prosperity;

Whereas the Nation benefits daily from the knowledge and skills of these highly trained individuals;

Whereas public servants—

(1) defend our freedom and advance the interests of the United States around the world;

(2) provide vital strategic support functions to our military and serve in the National Guard and Reserves;

(3) fight crime and fires;

(4) ensure equal access to secure, efficient, and affordable mail service;

(5) deliver Social Security and Medicare benefits;

(6) fight disease and promote better health;

(7) protect the environment and the Nation's parks;

(8) enforce laws guaranteeing equal employment opportunity and healthy working conditions;

(9) defend and secure critical infrastructure;

(10) help the Nation recover from natural disasters and terrorist attacks;

(11) teach and work in our schools and libraries;

(12) develop new technologies and explore the earth, moon, and space to help improve our understanding of how our world changes;

(13) improve and secure our transportation systems;

(14) promote economic growth; and

(15) assist active duty service members and veterans;

Whereas members of the uniformed services and civilian employees at all levels of government make significant contributions to the general welfare of the United States, and are on the front lines in the fight against terrorism and in maintaining homeland security;

Whereas public servants work in a professional manner to build relationships with other countries and cultures in order to better represent America's interests and promote American ideals;

Whereas public servants alert Congress and the public to government waste, fraud, abuse, and dangers to public health;

Whereas the men and women serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, as well as those skilled trade and craft Federal employees who provide support to their efforts, are committed to doing their jobs regardless of the circumstances, and contribute greatly to the security of the Nation and the world;

Whereas public servants have bravely fought in armed conflict in defense of this Nation and its ideals, and deserve the care and benefits they have earned through their honorable service;

Whereas government workers have much to offer, as demonstrated by their expertise and innovative ideas, and serve as examples by passing on institutional knowledge to train the next generation of public servants;

Whereas May 4 through 10, 2009, has been designated Public Service Recognition Week to honor America's Federal, State, and local government employees; and

Whereas Public Service Recognition Week is celebrating its 25th anniversary through job fairs, student activities, and agency exhibits: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends public servants for their outstanding contributions to this great Nation during Public Service Recognition Week and throughout the year;

(2) salutes government employees for their unyielding dedication and spirit of public service;

(3) honors those government employees who have given their lives in service to their country;

(4) calls upon a new generation to consider a career in public service as an honorable profession; and

(5) encourages efforts to promote public service careers at all levels of government.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, this week marks the 25th anniversary of Public Service Recognition Week. From May 4 through May 10, 2009, Public Service Recognition Week is designed to commemorate the hard work, dedication and sacrifice made by our Nation's Federal, State, and local government employees.

As chairman of the House Subcommittee on the Federal Workforce, Postal Service and the District of Columbia, I am proud to have introduced H. Res. 299 as it sends a strong message to public workers everywhere that their work and effort on behalf of this country is valued and their services appreciated.

I introduced H. Res. 299 on March 30, 2009, and I am pleased to report that the measure has been considered and reported from the Oversight Committee as of April 23, 2009.

While this measure has the support of only 60 Members of Congress, it affords each and every one of us a chance to celebrate and pay tribute to the thousands of civilian and military personnel that commit themselves daily to the greatness and prosperity of our country. To all of the public servants that touch our lives, our great teachers, our mail carriers, our firefighters, we say "thank you." From the soldiers in the field to the agents on the border, the service rendered by public service workers may be the key to our basic functionality, but yet it is so often overlooked.

While Public Service Week lasts only 7 days, I believe that the contributions and sacrifices of public servants should be recognized and appreciated throughout the entire year. As chairman of the Subcommittee on the Federal Workforce, my highest priority is to improve the working conditions, benefits and opportunities afforded to our civil servants. They deserve our highest recognition and praise, but all too often they are criticized and undervalued. During this session, I have introduced or supported legislation that would provide paid leave to Federal employees that are new parents, that would protect postal workers' jobs from being contracted out to the private sector, and that would allow Federal employees a credit for their unused sick leave when computing their retirement annuities.

Commemoration of Public Service Recognition Week runs from the first Monday through the first Sunday of May and will involve job fairs, student activities and agency exhibits, all designed to highlight the significance of public service and to encourage young people to consider public service. This week offers all Americans the opportunity to both recognize and learn more about the significant contributions that public sector employees make on a daily basis to our local communities, States and our Nation.

The theme for this year's celebration is "Government Goes Green." This will

give government agencies an opportunity to showcase how they are working to have a positive impact on the globe through environmentally friendly practices and energy-efficient initiatives.

Whether it is the Environmental Protection Agency keeping our air and water safe, the Department of Interior preserving and managing our Nation's parks, or the Department of Energy developing cleaner fuel alternatives, public servants have been on the forefront of protecting our Earth.

Also, Public Service Recognition Week offers a chance for Americans, especially young Americans, to learn more about various careers in the public service. By showing younger generations that hard work, dedication and passion in serving the common good leads to a productive and successful career, we will inspire our young people to seriously consider entering the field of public service.

In our busy daily lives, we often take for granted the hard work and services provided by government employees. These people are what make our country move, and they make it the greatest country in the world. Therefore, we have an obligation to recognize and honor the contributions made by those who put their love of country above personal motivations.

In short, they are all American heroes and the subject of today's measure, H. Res. 299, the commemoration of Public Service Recognition Week.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to ask a letter from the Office of Personnel Management Director, John Berry, praising our Nation's public employees to be entered into the RECORD. I know that Director Berry and the President alike share my commitment in making the Federal Government a better place to work. Therefore, it is with a warm sense of appreciation and deep gratitude that I stand to urge support for this measure.

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT,
Washington, DC, May 5, 2009.

Hon. STEPHEN F. LYNCH,
Chairman, Subcommittee on the Federal Service,
Postal Service, and District of Columbia,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to thank you for your sponsorship of H. Res. 299, a resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the Nation during Public Service Recognition Week, May 4 through 10, 2009, and throughout the year.

As you know, Public Service Recognition Week, celebrated the first Monday through Sunday in May since 1985, is a time set aside each year to honor the men and women who serve America as Federal, State and local government employees. Throughout the Nation and around the world, public employees use the week to educate citizens about the many ways in which government serves the people and how government services make life better for all of us.

As the Director of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), Public Service Recognition Week is the perfect time to spread President Obama's call to public service and to recognize public employees. I am com-

mitted to making the Federal Government a better place to work by speeding up the hiring process, increasing opportunities for veterans, and implementing programs that help employees balance work and family life.

Thank you for your continued leadership in recognizing the hard work of our public servants during Public Service Recognition Week and I look forward to working with you to make the Federal Government a better place to work.

Sincerely,

JOHN BERRY,
Director.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud to rise today in support of H. Res. 299 honoring the millions of dedicated public employees who steadfastly serve our Nation. These highly competent and well-trained public service employees who work at all levels of government, Federal, State and local, are a great example of an excellent workforce both here and abroad. They exhibit their professionalism and expertise as they handle the enormous amount of work that flows through all levels of government on a daily basis. Their sense of dedication and innovation are at the very core of this country's successes. Keeping our Nation running and safe are the emergency responders, the educators and medical personnel, and all others who are part of a larger group that we proudly call public service employees. Without them, our country simply could not function.

When speaking of public sector employees, we must particularly note the brave men and women who serve in the Armed Forces who continue to make all Americans proud as they dedicate their life and limb to keeping us all safe throughout the world. Those on the front lines deserve special recognition for their public service which is truly above and beyond the ordinary call of duty. These soldiers are provided vital strategic support from fellow public service employees both at home and abroad.

When natural disasters hit communities around the country and the world, it is our public service employees who provide support at every level. For this, they should also be commended. It is an honor for me to congratulate these fine citizens for performing challenging and many times thankless jobs with dedication every day. Because of our public service employees, we have a country that is safe and secure for all of us.

□ 1315

For these reasons, I express my strong support of Public Service Recognition Week.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the millions of men and women, in and out of uniform, who devote themselves daily to doing the public's work.

Without the service of these dedicated and selfless individuals, the country could not function. Public servants are on the front lines in Iraq and on the front lines fighting the Swine

Flu. They are the first to come to our aid in a crisis and the last to leave a burning building. They teach our children, pass our laws and bind our wounds. Without them, our lives would come to a halt. For their dedicated and continued service to the nation, I encourage my colleagues to join me in support of public servants everywhere and in support of Public Service Recognition Week.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I urge support for this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. I thank the gentleman for supporting this measure. I appreciate his support.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 299.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

ELIJAH PAT LARKINS POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1271) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2351 West Atlantic Boulevard in Pompano Beach, Florida, as the "Elijah Pat Larkins Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1271

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ELIJAH PAT LARKINS POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2351 West Atlantic Boulevard in Pompano Beach, Florida, shall be known and designated as the "Elijah Pat Larkins Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Elijah Pat Larkins Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) will each control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am pleased to present H.R. 1271 for consideration. This legislation will designate the United States postal facility located at 2351 West Atlantic Boulevard in Pompano Beach, Florida, as the "Elijah Pat Larkins Post Office Building," in honor of a man who dedicated over 25 years of his life to public service.

Born to farm worker parents in the then-segregated city of Pompano Beach, Florida, on April 29, 1942, Elijah Pat Larkins graduated from Blanche Ely High School in 1960, and subsequently attended Tennessee State University.

In 1962, Mr. Larkins embarked on a career as a community housing activist, first serving as a housing director with a Pompano community action agency. In 1969, Mr. Larkins was one of the two honorees in the State of Florida to receive the prestigious Ford Foundation Fellowship, which afforded him the opportunity to attend the National Housing Institute in Washington, D.C., and become a federally-certified housing development specialist.

In 1972, Mr. Larkins brought his new expertise back to his community by creating the Broward County Minority Building Coalition, an organization dedicated to ensuring the participation of minority-owned companies in south Florida's construction sector.

In 1982, Mr. Larkins first won elected office, becoming only the second African American elected to the Pompano Beach City Commission, and only the eighth African American local elected official in Broward County. He proceeded to serve 19 consecutive years.

Notably, Mr. Larkins served an unprecedented seven terms as the first African American mayor of Pompano Beach. He also served three terms as vice mayor, elected by his fellow city commissioners.

Under Mr. Larkins' leadership, the city of Pompano Beach initiated a variety of successful efforts to advance modern affordable home development and promote the growth of small and minority-owned businesses.

In addition to elected service, Mr. Larkins played an active role in a variety of social and religious organizations, including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Broward County Boys and Girls Club, the United Way, and the Urban League.

Regrettably, illness forced him to retire from public service in May of 2008. In February of 2009, he passed away at the age of 66, after a 16-month battle with brain cancer.

As noted by Mr. Larkins himself, he always had a great affinity and love for the city of Pompano Beach, and it was his hope that he would be remembered for giving all that he had to public service.

Mr. Speaker, let us honor this dedicated public servant through the pas-

sage of this legislation by dedicating the Pompano Beach Postal Facility in honor of Elijah Pat Larkins. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CASTLE. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 1271, designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2351 West Atlantic Boulevard in Pompano Beach, Florida, as the "Elijah Pat Larkins Post Office Building."

Elijah Pat Larkins dedicated his entire life to public service, and the citizens of Pompano Beach, Florida, are better off today because of his tireless service. In 2008, the Florida League of Cities recognized him for 25 years of public service.

Mayor Larkins was the first of 10 children born to a farmer and homemaker in Pompano on April 29, 1942. Nicknamed "Prez," and voted class president every year from 5th to 12th grade, he graduated from what is now Blanche Ely High School.

He grew up in a segregated society, but spent a lifetime in public service fighting for equal rights, and was elected Pompano Beach's first African American mayor in 1985, and subsequently served a record seven terms. Prior to that, he served 19 consecutive years as City Commissioner.

A Ford Foundation Fellow, Mayor Larkins was a federally-certified housing development specialist who created the Broward County Minority Builders Coalition, and was a director of his own, not-for-profit, Malar Construction, Inc., in Fort Lauderdale.

In fact, throughout his career in public service, he made significant contributions in housing, working tirelessly to ensure that safe and adequate housing was available to all. While mayor, he also helped transform the city's economy from agricultural to urban, all while mentoring local civic-minded residents and minority activists.

In addition to his many professional achievements, he took an active role in countless public service, social, and religious organizations, including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Broward County Boys and Girls Club, the Juvenile Justice Intensive Halfway House, and Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church. In fact, he was affiliated with more than a dozen national, State, and local political and service groups.

Mayor Larkins was twice married to retired schoolteacher Bettye Lamar Larkins, with whom he had a son, Gerald Todd. He also had another son, Tory Larkins, from a prior relationship. He is also survived by his nine younger siblings and his mother, Alberta Griffin.

In recognition of Mayor Larkins' commitment to public service and tireless efforts on behalf of the citizens of Pompano Beach, I urge all members to join me in supporting H.R. 1271, which will designate the United States Postal